

Fizz, Boom, READY for Summer Reading: The 2014 Texas Summer Reading Children's and Early Literacy Program

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Webinar Follow-Up

Ideas of community people to do science programs

- 4-h advisors
- animal rescue
- art teacher
- astronomy buffs
- astronomy society
- audubon societies
- botany
- boy & girl scouts
- chef
- CPS Energy, our electric co.
- doctors
- Electric Company
- Elementary science fair winners
- engineering dept. - our local phone company has one.
- engineers from our refinery
- fire dept
- game warden
- gardeners
- geologists
- high school students
- I had my cousin (Dr.) present grossology
- lab tech
- Master Gardener
- museums
- park and rec.
- Parks and Wildlife will send a ranger
- physicians/nurse
- radio announcer/owner
- robotics club at the high school
- science teachers from the schools
- soil and conservation dept
- surveyors
- TCEQ- aquatic scientists
- TX A&M agriculture extension
- Universities: Grad students, professors, student science clubs
- veterinarian
- Water Conservation District: The rep from the Water Conservation District did a program which included float or sink for our SRP last summer. The kiddos really liked it!
- weather forecaster

Attendee's interest in science

- animals
- app development
- astrology
- astronomy
- biology
- botany
- chemistry
- computer science
- earth science
- earth science and life science
- experiments
- fun Science to demonstrate!
- genetics
- gross science
- health and the body
- horticulture (growing own food),
- life science
- medical
- physics
- plants and animals
- robotics
- space exploration
- space science
- weather
- zoology

Questions Asked by Attendees

Q: Do you all generally read a story and then do the activity or just jump right in and do the activity?

A: I like to do some kind of introduction...a book, a story, riddles, a short video... For preschool, I like to do a 30 minute program followed by a very simple art project. For elementary ages

Q: Has anyone ever done a parade outside after they have made instruments with kids?

A: Yes - 4th of July kids parade.

Daycares

We schedule separate times for daycares to come so they aren't in regular story times.

We do the same. Day cares are generally too large of a group to come to story times.

I handled daycare by stating an adult to child ratio...1 adult to every 3 children. This also helped my classes not be full of nothing but daycares...i had a lot of complaints that there was no room for "regular" kids because daycares were filling up my class limits.

We actually give our daycares a private hour separate from our public story hour. It makes it much more pleasant for all involved. It was just not enjoyable to combine for our public kids.

Q: Programs that can be done for a large number of children--100+.

A: Invite an engaging speaker. Evening star gazing, animal rescue or a paid performers like Mad Science or Lucas Miller. For more performer ideas go to www.CTLS.net. Activities is a bit trickier. Have activities set up around a large room and have people come and go between a two hour time frame. Do a large scale engineering program where groups of 4 work together to build something from newspaper.

Q: What are the age groups you recommend? How many kids per group?

A: For the more science oriented material from the Children's Manual, I would suggest ages 6 and up. Maybe age 5 depending on the activities you are choosing. More than 25 kids may be a challenge unless you set up the room with "Stations". That way everyone can be engaged at the same time. You don't need as many different materials for everybody to do an activity at the same time, kids can go at their own pace, and different age levels can choose what is more interesting to them. This works great!

Programming Ideas and Tips Shared

The glider makes a great cat toy!

The turkey vulture was selected as the official mascot for this year's Earth Day festival in town. It was more nicely referred to as "nature's recycler".

Use rolled up newspapers. Have children make a fort. Use triangles larger than a sitting child.

If you are having problems getting attendees - get with your local elementary school and invite their summer school classes to attend.

Ideas to go with the glider: I did this at home and my daughter used it like a princess crown and that we could incorporate Pinkalicious for future story time.

Maracas : Mary & Neil Early have also put strings of mardi gras beads loosely in the bottles for another quality sound.

Easy subjects for toddlers

Subjects? Colors, Animals, Weather (rain), Space (nighttime, stars)

I suggest going through the Early Literacy Manual and looking for rhymes or songs that can be used.

Q: Do these projects have a book that may be used as an introduction?

A: Many of these activities have suggested books in the chapters of the manuals.

More Great Websites

One question was about what to do before doing activities. Here are some resources that you may be able to use as an introduction to science projects.

Great Science Videos

Smarter Everyday- These are great videos to explain stuff. Very cool!

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6DB5987C212AC19F>

Minute Physics

Short, easy to understand, animation videos about physics.

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLED25F943F8D6081C>

MORE SCIENCE CRAFTS:

Arvind Gupta: Turning trash into toys for learning- TED Talk

http://www.ted.com/talks/arvind_gupta_turning_trash_into_toys_for_learning.html

Arvind Gupta: Directions and videos of easy, inexpensive science toys to make.

<http://arvindguptatoys.com/>